

GERARD O'CONNOR, in another article on Limerick's claim for a university, highlights an interesting parallel between Ireland and Finland

CEMENT LTD. PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIPS, BUT . . .

... is so to complement our industry on its natural and auxiliary for children of its employees. It is hoped that many other industries will take

pattern.

But our concern is more at home. The future of Cement Ltd. lies in Limerick due to natural resources of limestone and mineral deposits and industrial location, the Limerick industry has stripped its partners and plans to do the same of Ireland's major industries. It is part of Limerick's future. Another part will be the University. The two strong community associations.

Here we would draw the attention of Mr. Larsen, Chairman of Comair Ltd., to one of the recent achievements of his own Scandinavian race.

In October, 1959, almost

to the day on which the present Committee was appointed by

Limerick Corporation, on the pro-

position of Mr. Donogh O'Malley,

the former body for the

Limerick University Project, the

University of Oulu, Finland, opened its doors for the first time.

OULU AND LIMERICK.

Now, Oulu is not as big as Dublin or Belfast. It is considerably smaller than Limerick. Its population is 50,000. Limerick's is over 500,000. The population of Finland is the same as Ireland's just under 10 million.

True, the land surface is four times as large but one-third of it is waste, being north or the tree line, and three-quarters of the remainder is forest land and lakes.

Finland has three other universities, all on the coast. They wanted an inland one with a circular catchment area. Oulu was the natural choice, as Limerick is for Ireland.

Ironically patriotic and highly educated, the Finns want every boy and girl to use. Dublin's boys (who has the aptitude) to have the opportunity of climbing up the educational ladder. They are proud of Davis' call to Yelling Ireland, "admit to be free." Living on the steps of the prison house, they know that the price of is not only eternal vigilance but the highest possible standard of living and education for all their sons. An educated man is the true patriot.

THE FACULTIES AT OULU. The University includes Philosophical, Economic and Medical Faculties and a Teachers' Training College.

The Philosophical Faculty gives instruction in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Zoology, Botany and Geology. In these subjects the students are instructed in Sciences, Certificate of Philosophy, B.Sc. and Doctor of Philosophy, D.Phil. may be taken. The primary degree takes four years. The honours can be taken in five years. The technical faculty comprises the departments of Agriculture, Building, Engineering—Industrial and Electrical, in which the degrees of architect and engineer can be taken. The degrees taken give the same competence as the corresponding degrees in the Institute of Technology in Helsinki.

Now Oulu is the only College in Finland which endorses all these branches of engineering and architecture. Dublin and Cork are content to go along with their one and two departments. Hence, they were passed over by the pragmatic Mr. Larsen and perhaps with good reason.

MEDICAL FACULTY—NO HOSPITAL.

A Faculty of medicine is essential to a university, and Oulu has such a Faculty. During the first year the students are instructed in the Philosophical Faculty at Oulu in the usual Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Zoology. After that they move to the University of Turku. They will continue their studies there until the graduation for medical training is completed. Just imagine the heat of derision that would go up if we in Limerick

were to be condemned to death in such terms. But we have medical training hospitals as good, if not better, than the others. We have the post-graduate courses of the R.C.S. and the D.C.H. The L.M. course is there for the asking.

There was no refusal of help in Finland. The University of Helsinki could ask for a new set of buildings, as its own are crumbling and out of date. Kivu could have asked for millions of equipment for its Sciences and Technological Faculties and so on.

But the Finns are patriotic and unselfish in the true sense. Theirs is the true spirit of fraternity and equality. The hardy square of Oulu in boot-tight boots, woolen trousers tucked into thick socks, knows nothing of class-consciousness there or elsewhere. So the success of Oulu is the success of all the others.

The remaining faculty is the Teachers' Training College. This started as a temporary training college in 1953, but was absorbed into the University in the autumn of 1959. The College, like ours in Limerick, trains teachers for elementary and higher elementary schools. The course is two years for the teacher's diploma.

Our Teachers' Training College in Limerick, 240 strong, is the only one outside Dublin. Inevitably, it will be absorbed into the University and is a strong factor in attracting the University to Limerick.

During its first year, Oulu University had 400 undergraduates. The annual increase will be 300. So, in 1963 the number of full-time students will be 1,500. The numbers will grow considerably if the faculty of arts is added, as planned. Contrast this with Galway's 860 full-time students after a century and Cork's 1,200.

FACULTY OF ARTS

The reason for the lack of an arts faculty is that Finland, like the other Scandinavian countries, fell under the control of the Lutheran church-leaving princes in the 16th century. Since then the religion is Lutheran, although now

full religious liberty exists.

Luther, in nothing else, was

consistent in his hatred of higher learning in philosophy, theology and the humanities, from the time of his revolt against his religion to right up to the last sermon he preached at Wittenberg shortly before his death in 1546. The Catholic Church, because of its dying days, has always been and must ever be, on the side of light and reason. Thus, of the older group of religious orders in and around Limerick (the Augustinians, the Benedictines, the Dominicans, the Franciscans and the Jesuits) all staff and control Universities wherever they are permitted to do so.

The Jesuits, youngest of the universities, have no fewer than 70 students (see Irish Jesuit Directory, 1961) throughout the world. The Jesuits had a university faculty at Mungret, in the shadow of the cement factory, until it was extinguished by the University Act of 1908. Further, some of the devices developed there are still in use in the science of seismology. So, with short notice, we could have several departments of the faculty of arts without going outside our area for professional staff.

TOTAL HOUSING.

At present, Oulu University is housed in old buildings in the city. There is an extensive building programme under way, which will include, beside the administrative building and library, separate institutional building for the philosophical and technical departments. The teachers' training school was practically completed early this year. As the classes expand, they are housed in timber-framed structures readily erected and insulated against the bitter cold

by their equivalent of Aeroboard. We have in Limerick a vacant residential seminary, a disused hospital and a disused courthouse. There is nothing to prevent these buildings from being used for temporary accommodation. A new prefabricated classroom was erected in Kilkenny last week. The cost was £100 and the time of erection 7 hours. Dr. Hillary was a witness to the performance.

The buildings will stand by the River Oulujoki in the heart of the town on grounds presented by the City of Oulu. The plans have been drawn by Dr. Olli Poyry, Professor of Architecture at the University. The training of the medical students will take place in the University Hospital, which will be built in the next few years on a site also presented by the city.

They must have their college in the town because of the intense cold of the long winter. The mean difference in summer and winter temperatures is 60 degrees. Ours is 10 degrees.

LIMERICK'S NATURAL ADVANTAGES

Our river is always open, 11 has been an international port of call for centuries. There is no bound for five months annually. It does only a limited coastal trade when open. The Shannon at Tarbert provides the finest natural harbour in the Western Atlantic from Iceland to the Cape of Good Hope. Over a hundred and twenty millions have been spent in dredging and dredging the port at Milford Haven and Rotterdam. Their maximum accommodation is 80,000 tons; the Shannon could accommodate ships of 120,000 tons without spending a penny on dredging or deepening. We have one of the world's great airports at our doorstep.

Helsinki, 200 miles from Oulu, is open for a limited time only and so on. Even in forestry, Finland's principal source of wealth, we could excel. The Norwegian pine grows three times as fast here as in Finland. True, it is not as tough as that in Finland, because of the closer summers. Neither are we as tough or as self-reliant.

MUST DUBLIN HAVE EVERYTHING?

Dublin surely has appropriated far more than its merits. On November 8 last we were informed by Dr. Hillary that the following educational buildings grants have been sanctioned since March 3, 1962:

New science building now in course of erection at Belfield, £1,000,000; reconstruction and extension of St. Patrick's Training College, Drumcondra, £1,200,000; Bolton St. College of Technology extension, £500,000; new College of Technology Kevin St. would cost estimated £1,500,000. In addition, acquisition and development of sites at Belfield up to March 31, 1962, £100,000. A total of £5,700,000 and very much more to come.

Dublin is very far down in the list of counties showing proportion of total population of secondary school age to actual attendances. Limerick is in first place. Clare second. Tipperary third. Kerry fourth and Cork fifth. Yet, Limerick gets nothing. Every effort is made to shout Limerick's claim down. What a sad comparison with the attitude of the worthy Finns.

Now that our new Diocesan College is completed (although, not by a long chalk, paid for), we can expect all our people to unite and press for the University College as never before. A University is more than 100 times as important as any secondary college, no matter how great. It takes nearly that number to feed the University. Its courses are the completion of the education, religious and secular. From it the future welfare of our State depends.

At close, we can do no better than to quote the authentic voice of the Father of Christendom pleading for university education for his children. In 1450, Pope Nicholas IV founded the University of Glasgow. The opening paragraph of the Bull reads:

"Nicolaus, bishop, servant of the servants of God, in everlasting recollection of the foundation. Among the other boons which mortal man can

by God's mercy acquire in this unstable life, it ought to be

desired as by no means least

that he can, by unremitting

study, obtain the pearl of

knowledge which enables him

to live nobly and in happiness.

Which, by its own intrinsic

worth, makes him who pos-

sesses it greatly excel him

who knows it not and leads

him to a clear perception of

the secrets of the Universe,

which is of efficacious help to

the unlearned and raises on

high those born in lowly

station."

- G. O'CONNOR.

• **POSTSCRIPT:** In the description of the University of Oulu, the writer has borrowed extensively from Mr. Anthony Kerr's "Universities of Europe." The quotation from the Bull of Pope Nicholas is taken from Father Kennedy's "Towards A

Happy group of people who attended the annual social of the Co. Limerick Creamery Managers' Association in the Glentworth Hotel.

RECENT DEATHS

MRS. MARGARET KIELY, BALLYLANDERS

Mrs. Margaret Kielty, of Ballylanders townlands, who died last month was in her 65th year. The remains were removed to the Church of the Assumption and prayers were recited by Very Rev. Fr. O'Byrne, P.P., and Rev. Fr. Ryan, C.C. Requiem Mass was celebrated on Christmas Eve by Fr. Ryan and the other priests in the sanctuary were Very Rev. Fr. O'Byrne, P.P., Very Rev. Fr. Lee, P.P., and Rev. Fr. English, C.C. After Mass, the interment took place at the local cemetery and a huge cortege of people, representative of all walks of life, paid a final tribute to a very popular lady. Many Mass cards were placed on the coffin, and the husband and very large family were the recipients of many messages of condolence. The chief mourners were Con Kielty (husband); Patrick Liam Edward and Liam (sons); Mary Bridie, Joe, Peggy Kathleen and Alice (daughters).

The late Mrs. Kielty was a woman of sterling qualities. She was hospitable, loving and kind and a very popular lady in the parish. She was wife of Con Kielty, well-known GAA all over Munster. A good and understanding mother to her large and appreciative family, we all trust she gains the final reward.

MRS. T. HARTY

It was with deepest feelings of sympathy that the people heard of the death of Mrs. Denis Harty, formerly of Ballyroota, Knocklong, and who died in England. Mrs. Harty, a member of a very old and established family, was a comparatively young woman, and her demise is a very severe shock to her husband, family and many relatives and friends.

MR. T. HANNON

The funeral took place at Kilfinane with military honours, of Mr. Timothy Hannon, Kilfinane, Co. Cork, and son of Mr. Timothy Hannon, Kilfinane. He was a member of "B" Company, 5th Battalion, East Limerick Brigade, I.R.A. and later C.S.I.R. National Army. The firing party was in charge of Lt. T. Murphy. The last post was sounded by Mr. James Tobin, Killinane Brass and Reed Band played appropriate music. He is survived by his wife and ten children.

MR. D. O'CONNELL, ABBEYFEALE

The death occurred of Mr. Denis O'Connell, Caherlone, Abbeyfeale, well-known local farmer and brother of Rev. Cornelius O'Connell who ministers in the Philippines Islands.

The death took place also of Mrs. Helen Harnett, Inch, Abbeyfeale. The deceased lady was a member of a popular local family and was relict of Laurence P. Harnett, farmer.

GIFT FOR PATIENTS

Mr. P. Harnett, Secretary, informed Limerick Health Authority that Miss Cecily O'Shaughnessy, Teaneck, New Jersey, U.S.A., has forwarded 100 dollars for patients in St. Joseph's Hospital, Limerick. The Secretary added that Miss O'Shaughnessy has been a constant benefactor to the patients' comforts fund for a number of years and her kindness in this regard is very much appreciated.

The Chairman (Mr. Barrett) and several members expressed their gratitude to Miss O'Shaughnessy for her constant kindness in sending subscriptions to the patients' comforts fund in St. Joseph's Hospital.